



Ocean and Coastal
Resource Management

Coastal Zone Management: Stormwater Permitting and Certification

Carolyn R. Boltin

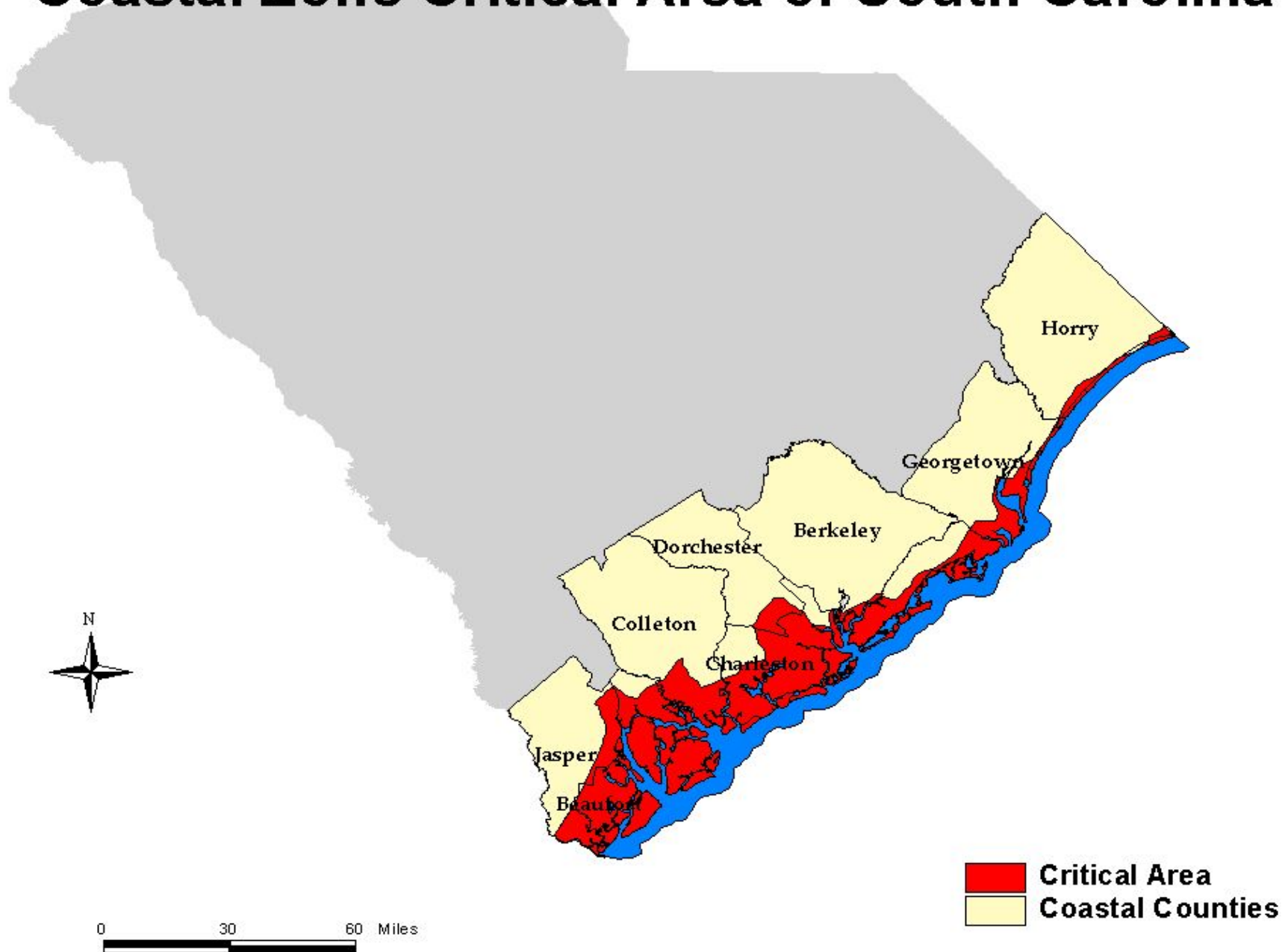
**Deputy Commissioner
Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**



OCRM Background

- **Established in 1977 under the Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act**
- **Coastal Management Plan adopted in 1979**
- **Oversee activities in the Coastal Zone - made up of the eight coastal counties**
- **Direct permitting authority for the Critical Area (tidelands, coastal waters, beaches and oceanfront sand dune system)**
- **Certification authority for state and federal activities**

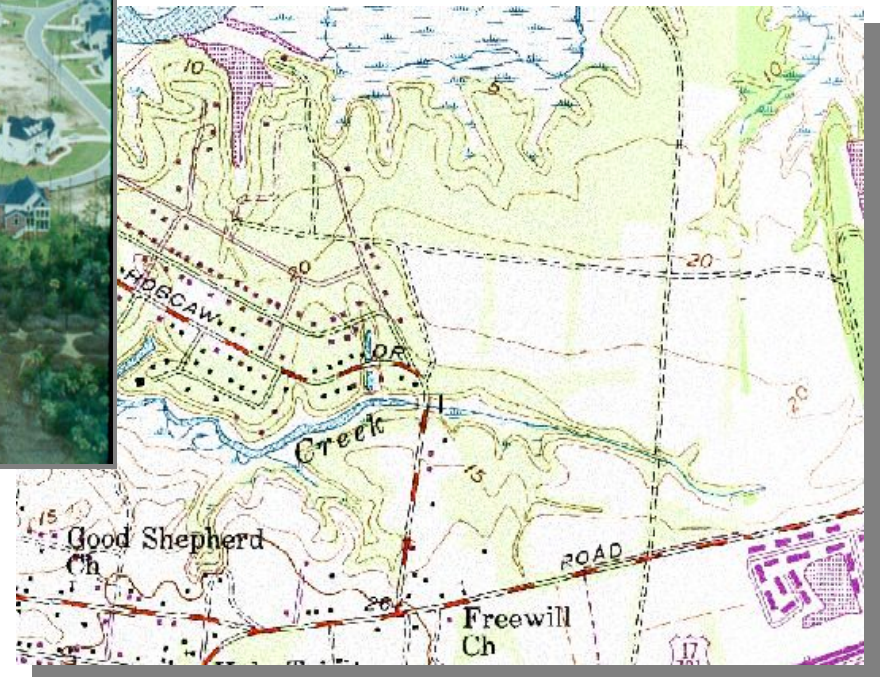
Coastal Zone Critical Area of South Carolina



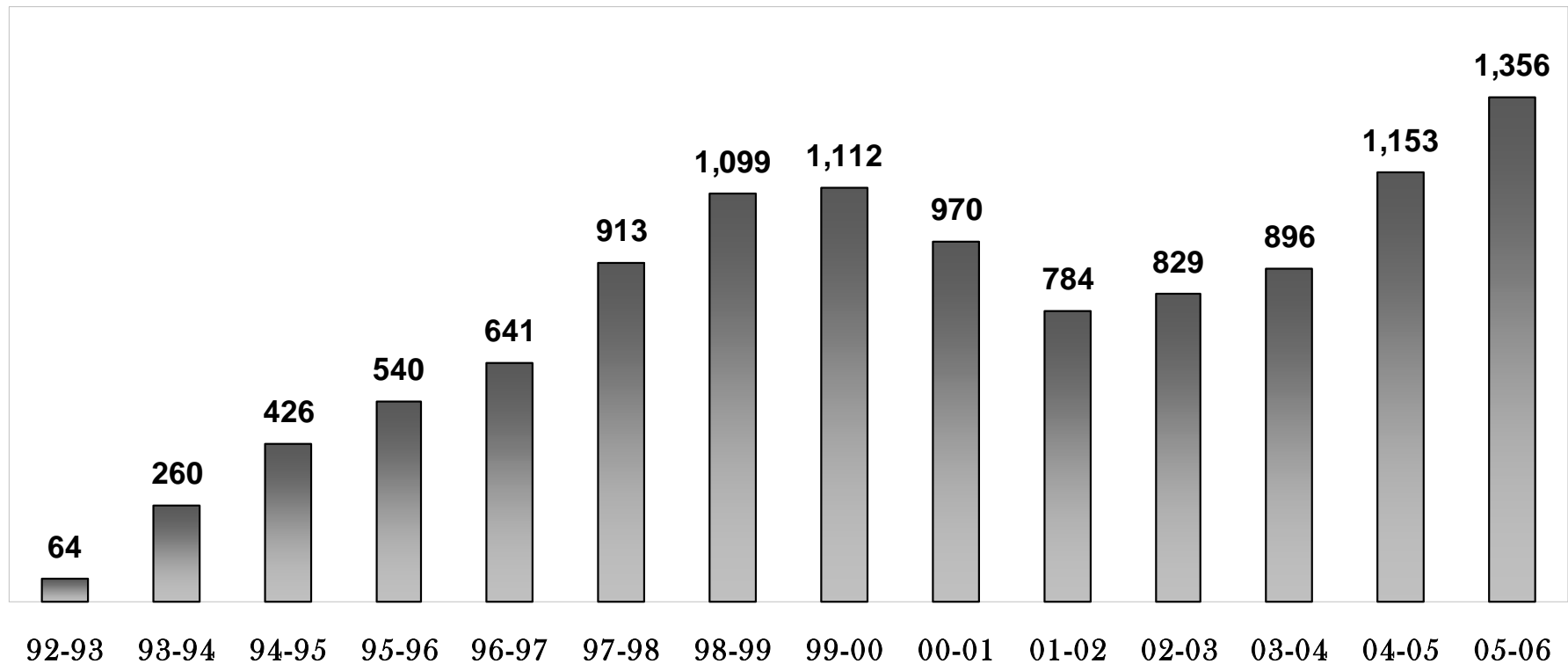
Major Program Areas

- **Critical Area permitting**
- **Stormwater/Land disturbance**
- **State and Federal permit certification**
- **Beach monitoring**
- **Coastal planning and grants**
- **Science and policy**

Stormwater and Land Disturbance



S/W Permits & Plans Reviewed in Coastal Counties



Stormwater and Land Disturbance

- **Clean Water Act**
- **1991: Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction Act**
- **1992: Effective Regulations**
 - **Exemptions included:**
 - Single family homes (separately built)
 - Subdivisions approved prior to regulations
 - Forestry, Mining, Agriculture
- **2006: NPDES**

NPDES Permit

- **Effective Sept. 1, 2006**
- **Construction General Permit**
 - Sites that disturb 1 acre or more
 - Within ½ mile of receiving water body in Coastal Zone
- **Combines Federal permit with State review for**
 - Navigable waters
 - Water Quality (401)
 - State S/W permit
 - Coastal Zone Consistency
- **New Clock and Checklist**

NPDES Permit Checklist

- **Consolidated state and federal permit**
- **Expanded to include recurring issues most frequently commented on by the agency**
- **Serves as permitting guide with detailed explanation, regulatory requirements and design suggestions**
- **Additional checklist items added to address impacts to:**
 - **Navigable waters**
 - **Impaired water bodies (anti-degradation)**

NPDES Permit Clock

- **20 day review period**
- **Clock starts with complete NOI, which includes OCRM coastal zone consistency document in the eight coastal counties**
- **Consistency review and Construction General Permit review runs concurrent**

Coastal Zone Consistency Certification

State

- Water Supply
- Wastewater
- Air
- NPDES
- Mining
- Landfills
- USTs
- Stormwater

Federal

- Direct Federal Actions
- Federal Funding
- Federal Permits and Licenses

Coastal Zone Consistency Review

- **OCRM review for impacts to:**
 - **Wetlands**
 - **Cultural resources**
 - **Endangered species**
 - **GAPC**
 - **Industry/Ports**



Challenges to Permit Process

- **Backlog created by:**
 - High Volume/Limited Staff
 - Significant changes in requirements (NPDES)
 - Incomplete project submittals
 - Loss of experienced staff to private sector
 - Coastal Zone consistency review
 - Multi-agency jurisdiction and coordination
 - Greater input and information requests from concerned citizens

Improving the Process

- **Staffing / Balanced workloads**
- **Tiered review to clear backlog**
- **Permit issuance**
- **Regional Developer Meetings**



Stormwater Management Staffing

- **Reconfigured staff:**
 - **Balanced workloads by region**
 - **Dedicated Expedited Review Manager**
 - **Stormwater Plan Review Coordinator**
 - **5 Coastal Project Managers for 1300+ applications**
 - **4 new compliance staff**

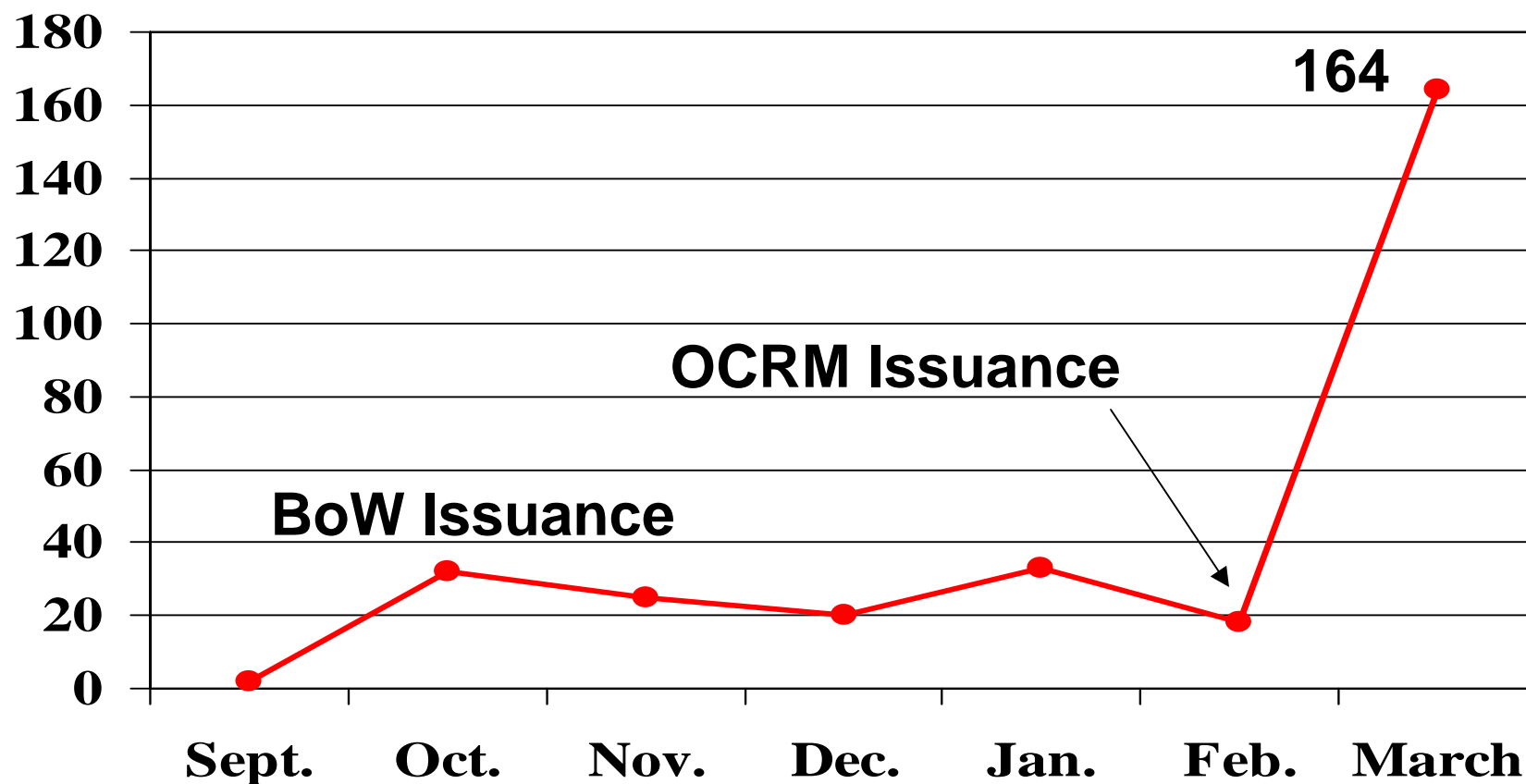
Improving Application Process

- **Quality Counts!**
 - NOI must be complete and accurate
 - Clock won't start until application is complete
 - Follow checklist
- **Submit plans as soon as possible**
- **Use guidance documents and calculation sheets available on website**
- **Designate single point of contact**
- **Status inquiries delay review process**
- **Provide a good example to Junior Engineers!**

Permit Issuance

- **NPDES permits now issued by each OCRM regional office**
- **No longer conducting final inspections on water and sewer certifications**
- **Fewer S/W final inspections**

Permit Issuance Improvement





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**Carolyn R. Boltin,
Deputy Commissioner**

<http://www.scdhec.gov/ocrm>

